

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



**TONI ATKINS**  
COUNCILMEMBER  
THIRD DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Governor Davis Commits Six Million Dollars to Balboa Park Projects**

### **Councilmember Atkins Who Lobbied Hard for Funds Calls Action 'Historic'**

**SAN DIEGO** --In what is being termed by Third District City Councilmember Toni Atkins as a "historic day" for Balboa Park, California Governor Gray Davis today announced the allocation of \$6 million in state funds to restore several Balboa Park facilities and allow for the construction of a veterans memorial garden in the park. The announcement was enthusiastically received by Atkins who has made the restoration of Balboa Park a top priority since taking office in 2000. Balboa Park is located entirely within the Third District.

"This is truly a historic day, not only for Balboa Park and the Third Council District, but for all of San Diego," said Councilmember Atkins. "This generous allocation of \$6 million that Governor Davis has committed will go a long way toward restoring the vibrancy to some of our greatest treasures in the park. I can't thank Governor Davis and his staff enough for responding to our requests for help."

The \$6 million will help fund the following projects:

#### **Major repairs to the ornamentation on the historic Museum of Art building:**

This historic building was designed by William Templeton Johnson and constructed in 1926 to house the City's civic arts collection. The building's facade is crumbling and in need of major repairs. To ensure the safety of the public from the possibility that pieces of the building may fall off, an unsightly wooden cover has been placed over the public walkway, obscuring some of the building's marvelous architectural details. The facade will be repaired, the cover removed, and the museum restored to its original grandeur.

#### **Major repairs to the ornamentation on the historic Casa del Prado building:**

Similar to the situation at the Museum of Art, the ornamentation on the facade of the Casa del Prado is separating from the building. Major repairs are necessary to save this celebrated example of Spanish Colonial architecture.

#### **Exterior painting and stucco repair for the historic California Tower:**

The California Tower is a San Diego icon and embodies the image of Balboa Park. This landmark building, constructed for the 1915 California-Panama Exposition, is in need of extensive stucco repair,

restoration of historic tile work, and paint.

**Reconstruction of the West Arcade:**

The original West Arcade, a covered walkway connecting the Plaza de Panama to the Museum of Man, was constructed for the 1915 Exposition. It was removed in the 1960s because it was in disrepair. Plans have recently been approved by the San Diego City Council for its reconstruction, using the original architectural schematics. The completion of the West Arcade will restore the last of the four arcades that line the Prado.

**Balboa Park Veterans Memorial Garden:**

This proposed memorial will honor the San Diego veterans who served in the armed forces of the United States. The funds will help with three components: 1) a Medal of Honor Walk, which is a garden pathway between the current Veterans Memorial Center and the proposed B-24 Memorial; (2) a B-24 Memorial, which will be a bronze casting of the famous B-24 Liberator that was manufactured here in San Diego; and (3) an expanded garden area.

"This substantial commitment of funds reaffirms Governor Davis' support for Balboa Park and underscores the importance of forging relationships between our local and state elected officials," Atkins said. "This just goes to show that if we stay focused on what our region's needs are, and we aggressively pursue funding at both the State and Federal levels, we can effectuate positive change for our communities, sometimes quicker than we ever could have imagined."

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